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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,261	08/01/2003	Kent Charles Burr	129640-1	5497

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59
NISKAYUNA, NY 12309

EXAMINER

VARGOT, MATHIEU D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1791

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/15/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/632,261	Applicant(s) BURR, KENT CHARLES	
	Examiner Mathieu D. Vargot	Art Unit 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 26, 27, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Corbeil et al (see paragraphs 0022 and 0024; 414, 416 in Fig. 4; 514, 516 in Fig. 5).

Corbeil et al discloses the instant anisotropic scintillator for use in an imaging system comprising a scintillator element comprised of a material having a first optical property and a three-dimensional pattern formed in the element using a pulse laser (paragraph 0024) which alters the first optical property at a plurality of discrete locations to form microvoids, the microvoids having a second optical property such that the three-dimensional pattern forms channel regions in the scintillator element, the pattern controlling the spread of photons in the element—see paragraph 0022. It is submitted inherent that the pattern formed in the scintillator element controls the photons “to achieve desired signal sharing among the plurality of regions having borders defined by the plurality of discrete locations within said scintillator element” as set forth in amended claim 26. Indeed, as the photons are channeled through the scintillator element, some will hit the microvoids that constitute the boundaries and others will not, and it is this that would inherently facilitate the signal sharing as now recited. Concerning instant claim

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27, see Figs. 4 and 5. It is further submitted that the formation of the microvoids within the scintillator material neither removes nor adds any material to the scintillator element.

2.The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbeil et al.

Corbeil et al discloses the basic claimed scintillator as set forth in paragraph 1, supra, the applied reference essentially lacking a clear disclosure that the scintillator element is made up of a single crystal/ceramic element. As disclosed in the background section of the applied reference, the use of crystals (see paragraph 0009) is known in the art and these would conventionally be single crystal materials. Also, these crystals are known to be made of ceramic materials. It surely would have been obvious to have patterned a single crystal ceramic element in Corbeil et al since these materials are conventional in the art.

3.Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In view of applicant's amendment and arguments, the rejection has been reformatted, with Corbeil et al now being relied upon in a 102/103 rejection. Applicant's comments

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notwithstanding, it is submitted that the product of the applied reference would indeed be formed of three-dimensional patterns of localized channel regions which are configured to control the spread of photons "to achieve desired signal sharing...discrete locations. Applicant's admitted prior art states that the method (and hence product) of the prior art controls the spread of photons and it is clear that the method (and product) of Corbeil et al does the same thing. From a fair reading of the prior art statement in the instant specification, this control of the spread of the photons is what allows the desired signal sharing as set forth in amended claim 26. Hence, backed up by what applicant admits is known in the art, it is rather clear that the product of Corbeil et al fulfills the instant functionalities.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mathieu D. Vargot whose telephone number is 571 272-1211. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson, can be reached on 571 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Vargot
May 7, 2008

/Mathieu D. Vargot/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791